

Serial No.: 10/705,482
Filing Date: November 10, 2003

Examiner: K. Bareford
Art Unit: 1762

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are currently pending in this application and claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of all of the claims in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants and the undersigned wish to thank the Examiner for the insightful comments in the Office Action, which have assisted Applicants in amending the claims in the manner above.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Algeri in view of Marion and Giesinger. In view of the amendments made above, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 5 to recite the features that:

(1) the plurality of coating guns comprise a first coating gun assigned to coat drawn metal parts in a first sequential location in the ordered stream and a second coating gun assigned to coat drawn metal parts in a second sequential location in the ordered stream (amended step (c)); and

(2) enabling the second coating gun to coat drawn metal parts in both the first sequential location in the ordered stream that was previously assigned to be coated by the first coating gun and in the second sequential location in the ordered stream if the coating is defective (amended step (g) of claim 1 and step (h) of claim 5).

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, describe or suggest the invention as now claimed. That is, while Algeri

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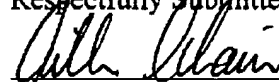
describes the use of two spray guns 85, 86, there is no teaching or suggestion that one of the spray guns could do the work of both spray guns if one of the spray guns was found to be defective. It is also respectfully submitted that Marion provides no description or suggestion regarding the claimed enablement of the second coating gun if the coating is found defective. Likewise, while Giesinger describes that provisions may be made for an additional coating gun to be mounted on the frame so as to be movable to the level of a broken down or faulty coating gun, Giesinger merely describes substituting out one coating gun for another and does not describe or fairly suggest enabling an existing coating gun to take over the coating in two sequential locations, as now claimed. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, alone or in combination describe or suggest all of the elements of the invention as now claimed.

Based thereon, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-7 as being unpatentable over Algeri in view of Marion and Giesinger is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the rejections have been overcome and that this application is in a condition for immediate allowance. Such action is earnestly sought. However, if the Examiner perceives any reason why this application should not pass to allowance, she is requested to contact the undersigned prior to the issuance of the next Office action so that such issues may be resolved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Arthur G. Schaier, Reg. No. 37,715
Carmody & Torrance LLP
50 Leavenworth Street
P. O. Box 1110
Waterbury, CT 06721-1110
(203) 575-2648